

Distinguished Members of the Health Appropriations Subcommittee:

My name is Brian Chin; I live in West Hartford. I am an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Trinity College and a supporter of CT Against Gun Violence.

I am testifying in support of the \$2.5 million included in the Governor's budget on Line T1449 for the Department of Public Health to fund gun violence intervention grants in FY2024, and the \$400,000 on Line 274 each year for operational expenses.

However, I also wish to testify that I believe the grant appropriation needs to be larger, at \$10 million in each year of the fiscal 2024-25 budget. This increase is needed given the magnitude of gun violence in Connecticut's communities which I believe represents an urgent public health emergency. Last year, gun-related deaths reached their highest levels since the turn of the century; a gun-related murder occurred in Connecticut once every three days in 2022. This increase is also needed given that gun violence in Connecticut represents an issue of racial justice. Gun violence disproportionately victimizes people of color in Connecticut, especially our state's young Black men.

I wish to conclude by thanking the Health Appropriations Subcommittee for hearing my testimony.

Sincerely,

Brian Chin
West Hartford, CT